(b) if so, the details thereof and how does it affect Rajasthan;

(c) how much area of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are water logged; and

(d) whether any improvement has been effected in Rajasthan during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A team of Central Water Commission (CWC) officers constituted to examine seepage of water from Rajasthan Canal causing water-logging at Muktesar District of Punjab and to suggest remedial measures, has suggested in April 2008 after field visit, to prepare a comprehensive Detailed Project Report considering short term and long term measures to reclaim the entire areas affected by Water logging and salinity/alkalinity in North Western Districts of Punjab. The State Government has submitted two proposals namely Relining of Rajasthan Feeder and Relining of Sirhind Feeder which are under appraisal in CWC in order to avoid water logging and salinity problem in the districts of Faridkot, Muktesar and Forezpur.

(b) As per a concept note received from Government of Punjab, the water saved as a result of the proposed anti-water logging measures in Punjab, would irrigate about 2 lac acres of land in Rajasthan and Punjab and would increase agricultural production in the two States to the tune of Rs.300 crore per annum.

(c) CWC has informed that as per a remote sensing study, the water logged area in the Major & Medium commands lying in the State of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are 34.97 Thousand Hectare (Th.Ha.), 16.46 Th.Ha and 8.41 Th.Ha. respectively.

(d) As per the Annual Report (2006-07) on Command Area Development, Indira Gandhi Nahar Project, Drainage Trials & Demonstration, Monitoring of Ground Water Level and Hydro-geological Barrier Studies are being implemented to reclaim water logged & salinity soil of IGNP area.

Construction of dams in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

†1693. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the time when the decision was taken for construction of dams Lakhwar, Vyasi Kushau and Renuka in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and the construction cost of these dams at that time;

(b) the time when these said projects were given the status of National Project by Central Government;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the construction of these dams;

(d) the steps being taken by the Central Government to start the work immediately on these project of national importance; and

(e) whether the Central Ground Water Board is aware of the steps taken by the Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to implement these project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Planning Commission approved the originally submitted proposal for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Lakhwar Vyasi Project (now in Uttarakhand) in 1976 at a cost of Rs. 140.97 crores (Price level January 1976). In January, 2000, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) considered the Kishau Project (now in Uttarakhand) proposal at an estimated cost of Rs.3455 crore (Price level -June 1996) but deferred approval pending establishment of techno-economic viability. It found the Renuka dam (in Himachal Pradesh) proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 1224.64 crore (Price Level May 1997) acceptable, subject to compliance of certain conditions.

(b) The Central Government approved the scheme for implementation of National Projects which includes these three projects, on 7th February, 2008.

(c) In respect of Ranuka project, compliance in respect of sharing of cost, Environment & Forests clearance have not yet been received. The proposal of Lakhwar Vyasi had to be revised due to various reasons and the revised DPR received in March 2006 is under appraisal. The updated DPR of Kishau project is to prepared by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.

(d) As projects of National importance, 90% of the cost of irrigation and drinking water component of the projects will be provided by Central Government as grant thereby providing an incentive to the concerned State Governments for early start of construction of these projects. Ministry of Environment & Forests has been requested by the Secretary (WR) for early clearance of Renuka project, which is in advanced stage for clearance, from Environment & Forests angle so that the proposal could be put up for the consideration of TAG. Several meetings have been held with the State Governments in the continuing endeavour to resolve issues. CWC has also been requested to assign top priority to technical appraisal of these projects. Upper Yamuna River Board in its meeting held on 11.02.2008 decided to assign priority to construct these projects while discussion on evolving the formula for sharing of costs and benefits would continue.

(e) These three storage projects are planned to store surface water and Central Ground Water Board is not concerned in the matter. However, Central Water Commission is involved in technical appraisal of these projects and is fully aware of the steps taken by the Govts. of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to implement these projects.

Meeting of officers between India and Nepal

†1694. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased of state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a high level meeting of officers of India and Nepal was held to consider the management of water resources;

(b) if so, the details of venue and time of this meeting alongwith the issues discussed in it;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared to materialize the decisions of the meeting; and

(d) if so, the outlines of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi